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**FORMER SACRAMENTO HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR
SENTENCED IN MAIL FRAUD SCHEME AND INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION
OF STOLEN PROPERTY INVOLVING THEFT OF SCHOOL'S DIGITAL HIGH TECH
EQUIPMENT**

SACRAMENTO – United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that CLYDE SANTENS, 64, formerly of Sacramento and now of Eustis, Florida, was sentenced today by U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence K. Karlton in Sacramento to four months in prison and four months of home confinement based on his fraud scheme to remove and steal high tech school property from Sacramento High School. On April 8, 2003, SANTENS pleaded guilty to two counts of mail fraud, and one count of interstate transportation of stolen property, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 1341, 2314.

During the sentencing hearing, U.S. District Judge Karlton indicated that SANTENS had engaged in a breach of trust and that the nature of the offense and the victim (Sacramento High School) warranted the eight month sentence (including prison time and home confinement) which was imposed. SANTENS was also ordered to pay \$52,188 in restitution, based on the estimated value of the property he misappropriated.

According to court documents, during the period from the summer of 1999 through October 23, 2001, SANTENS served as a Sacramento High School teacher with a special assignment as the Technology Coordinator of the High School's digital high tech grants. Investigators learned that SANTENS used his position to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud and to obtain computer and digital high tech equipment property from Sacramento City Unified School District.

On October 11, 2002, during a search warrant executed at SANTENS' residence in Eustis, Florida, law enforcement officials discovered a substantial amount of computer equipment property belonging to the Sacramento City Unified School District. The school equipment included desktop computers, laptop computers, computer monitors, computer switching systems, PDAs (personal digital assistants, a mobile hand-held device that provides computing and information storage and retrieval capabilities), scanners, digital VCR, external disk drives, printer, digital camera, projectors, and computer software packages.

Sacramento School officials confirmed that SANTENS did not have authority to take and transport the school computer equipment from the Sacramento City Unified School District to Florida. Investigators learned that as of October 23, 2001, SANTENS took a leave of absence from Sacramento High School and did not return to his duties. After his departure, SANTENS responsibilities as Technology Coordinator were transferred to another person.

Additionally, investigators discovered that SANTENS sent a number of packages via United Parcel Service from the Eastern District of California to Eustis, Florida, including three UPS packages shipped on April 17, 2001, and six packages on May 5, 2001, which contained computer equipment from the Sacramento City Unified School District, including a scanner, three CPUs (central processing unit) and CPU parts, three computer monitors, and battery backups. UPS records confirm the shipment. The packages were sent to Stanford Sonoma Corporation, a company controlled by individuals associated with SANTENS. School officials confirmed that there was no official school business warranting these packages being sent to Florida and that SANTENS did not have permission to send the packages to Florida.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark L. Krotoski and was investigated by the Sacramento Police Department with assistance from the U.S. Postal Inspection Service San Francisco Office.

A copy of this press release may be found on the U.S. Attorney's Office's website at: http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/text_version/text_pressindex.htm.

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